



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

June 2018 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

SCOTT SEO,  
aka "Seung Hye Seo,"  
aka "Scott Hoon Seo," and  
WILBUR M. SALAO,  
aka "Will Salao,"

Defendants.

No.

CR18-00625-JAK

I N D I C T M E N T

[18 U.S.C. § 371: Conspiracy;  
18 U.S.C. § 1346: Honest Services  
Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 1341: Mail  
Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 1343: Wire  
Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(2):  
Bribery Concerning Programs  
Receiving Federal Funds; 18 U.S.C.  
§ 2: Aiding and Abetting and  
Causing an Act to be Done]

The Grand Jury charges:

INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

A. RELEVANT PERSONS AND ENTITIES

1. The State of California ("California" or "State") and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control ("ABC") received benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a Federal program involving a grant, contract, subsidy, loan, guarantee, insurance, and other form of Federal assistance during the following one-year periods:

Begin Date	End Date
October 1, 2013	September 30, 2014
October 1, 2014	September 30, 2015
October 1, 2015	September 30, 2016

2. The ABC was vested with the exclusive power to license and regulate persons and businesses engaged in the manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the State of California. The ABC's mission was to administer the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act in a manner that fostered and protected the health, safety, welfare, and economic well-being of California citizens. The ABC's responsibilities included, among others: (1) licensing, to ensure that only qualified persons and legitimate businesses were licensed to sell, manufacture, and otherwise deal in alcoholic beverages; and (2) enforcement, to ensure adherence to the alcoholic beverage control laws and regulations. Penalties paid in lieu of license suspensions were collected into the Alcohol Beverage Control Fund, and were then transferred to the State General Fund.

3. Defendant WILBUR M. SALAO, also known as ("aka") "Will Salao" ("defendant SALAO"), was a public official employed by the ABC, and an agent of the ABC and the State. Defendant SALAO began working at the ABC in or around July 1997. Beginning in at least about 2010, defendant SALAO was a District Administrator in the Los Angeles Metro ABC office, within the Central District of California.

4. As an ABC district administrator, defendant SALAO's duties and responsibilities included, among others: (1) directing the work of the field office in licensing activities; (2) reviewing and

1 evaluating final recommendations for the issuance or denial of  
2 licenses; (3) directing the enforcement staff and enforcement  
3 operations; (4) coordinating and conducting disciplinary hearings  
4 with licensees; and (5) proposing dispositions of disciplinary cases.

5       5. As an ABC employee, under Section 830.2(h) of the  
6 California Penal Code, defendant SALAO was a peace officer whose  
7 authority extended to any place in the State to investigate and make  
8 arrests for violations of the California Business and Professions  
9 Code. Under Section 25755 of the California Business and Professions  
10 Code, defendant SALAO was further empowered to enforce California  
11 penal provisions anywhere in the State.

12       6. As a public official employed by the State, defendant SALAO  
13 owed a fiduciary duty to the citizens of the State and to defendant  
14 SALAO's employer, the ABC, to perform the duties and responsibilities  
15 of defendant SALAO's office free from bias, conflicts of interest,  
16 self-enrichment, self-dealing, concealment, deceit, fraud, kickbacks,  
17 and bribery.

18       7. Defendant SCOTT SEO, aka "Seung Hye Seo," aka "Scott Hoon  
19 Seo" ("defendant SEO"), was a consultant who offered consulting  
20 services on, among other things, matters concerning ABC licenses, ABC  
21 condition modifications, and ABC enforcement and disciplinary  
22 resolutions. Defendant SEO began his consulting business in  
23 approximately 2006, after serving as an investigator for the ABC for  
24 approximately 15 years. As a consultant, defendant SEO marketed his  
25 services to, among others, businesses in the Koreatown area of Los  
26 Angeles, California. Defendant SEO marketed his services by mailing  
27 marketing materials and on the websites [www.abcllc-ca.com](http://www.abcllc-ca.com) and  
28 [www.liquorlicenseexpeditors.com](http://www.liquorlicenseexpeditors.com).

1           8.     Alcoholic Beverage Control LLC ("ABC LLC") was a consulting  
2 company registered in the State of California, with an office located  
3 at 3460 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1240, Los Angeles, California  
4 90010. Defendant SEO was the organizer, manager, and agent for  
5 service of process for ABC LLC.

6           9.     Defendant SEO opened a Bank of America business account for  
7 ABC LLC, ending in 0781 (the "ABC LLC Account"), which defendant SEO  
8 used to deposit checks from clients, to write checks to defendant  
9 SALAO and others, and to pay various expenses.

10          10.    "Asian Persuasion Control," "Asian Persuasion Coalition,"  
11 "APC" and "AP" were informal names defendant SEO and defendant SALAO  
12 used to refer to themselves and their schemes to use defendant  
13 SALAO's official position at ABC to benefit defendant SEO in exchange  
14 for money.

15    B.    BACKGROUND ON ABC LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT

16          11.    Any establishment in California serving alcohol was  
17 required to have a license from the ABC. Before issuing a license,  
18 the ABC evaluated the proposed establishment and the applicant's  
19 moral character and fitness to sell alcohol. The applicant was  
20 required to post public notices regarding the liquor license at the  
21 establishment and in the local media. Citizens could protest the  
22 granting of a license. Government entities, such as a city council  
23 or local police department could also notify the ABC of reasons for  
24 contesting the license, such as evidence that the issuance of a  
25 license would cause a public nuisance. All ABC licenses were subject  
26 to specific operating conditions, including, for example, specific  
27 hours of operation, total capacity, security guard requirements,  
28 bottle service restrictions, and live entertainment restrictions.

1           12. When applying for an ABC license, the applicant was  
2 required to file various documents, including a petition listing the  
3 specific operating conditions and an ABC-257 Form. The front of the  
4 257 Form included a diagram of the licensed premises, the only area  
5 within which the establishment can legally serve alcoholic beverages.  
6 The back of the 257 Form included the specific operating conditions  
7 for the establishment. Once approved, changing operating conditions  
8 (referred to as a "condition modification") or the licensed premises  
9 diagram required formal applications and approvals. The ABC  
10 maintained these documents at its district offices. ABC staff,  
11 including district administrators, had access to these documents  
12 within ABC's district files.

13           13. License holders were subject to routine and random  
14 inspections by the ABC to ensure compliance with license operating  
15 conditions and the law, such as the prohibition against selling  
16 alcohol to minors. The ABC's planned enforcement operations (or  
17 "raids") were kept confidential to ensure their effectiveness and for  
18 enforcement staff safety.

19           14. If ABC staff observed a violation at a licensed premises, a  
20 district administrator sent a letter (referred to as a "309 letter")  
21 to request the licensee's attendance at a "309 hearing" or "309  
22 meeting" at the ABC office to discuss the alleged violation and  
23 potential resolution. The licensee could attend the hearing on  
24 his/her own or with a consultant or attorney. After the 309 hearing,  
25 the district administrator prepared a report with a recommendation on  
26 filing an accusation and proposed discipline. The potential  
27 disciplinary actions included, among others, a Letter of Warning  
28 ("LOW"), a fine (referred to as a Petition Offer in Compromise or

1 "POIC"), suspension of the license for a specific number of days, and  
2 revocation of the license. The licensee could either sign a  
3 stipulation and waiver pleading guilty to the violation and waiving  
4 an administrative hearing, or litigate the accusation in an  
5 administrative hearing before an administrative law judge.

6 C. KOREATOWN ESTABLISHMENTS

7 15. Koreatown was a neighborhood in central Los Angeles,  
8 California, located within City Council District 10. The Los Angeles  
9 Police Department ("LAPD") provided police service to the City of Los  
10 Angeles, with the LAPD Olympic Division serving the Koreatown area.

11 16. Establishments in Koreatown served and sold alcoholic  
12 beverages in room salons, karaoke bars, restaurants, and nightclubs.  
13 These establishments were licensed by the ABC and subject to ABC  
14 regulations and enforcement. Common violations encountered by the  
15 ABC and LAPD in Koreatown establishments included: (1) operating past  
16 the closing hour specified in the operating conditions (referred to  
17 as "afterhours" violations); (2) paying females to encourage drinking  
18 by patrons, to act as escorts, or to engage in other illegal conduct  
19 (commonly referred to as "b-girls," "dowoomi," and "doumi"); and (3)  
20 serving alcohol to minors.

21 17. Businesses 1-8 were establishments in Koreatown subject to  
22 ABC regulations and enforcement.

23 18. These Introductory Allegations are hereby incorporated by  
24 reference into each count of this Indictment as if set forth fully  
25 therein.  
26  
27  
28

COUNT ONE

[18 U.S.C. § 371]

A. OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

19. Beginning on an unknown date but no later than December 9, 2011, and continuing until on or about May 3, 2016, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant SEO and defendant SALAO, together with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, knowingly combined, conspired, and agreed with each other to knowingly and intentionally commit offenses against the United States, namely: (1) Bribery Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666; (2) Honest Services Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341, 1343, and 1346; and (3) Extortion under Color of Official Right, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951.

B. MEANS BY WHICH THE OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY WERE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED

20. The objects of the conspiracy were to be accomplished, in substance, as follows:

a. Defendant SEO would provide defendant SALAO bribes and kickbacks in the form of monetary payments in exchange for official acts from defendant SALAO.

b. Defendant SEO would target businesses for enforcement actions, allowing defendant SEO to sign new clients, to generate fees from existing clients, to harm competitors and rivals, and to force businesses to sell their establishments to defendant SEO and his associates.



1           c. In exchange for receiving bribes and kickbacks from  
2 defendant SEO, defendant SALAO would perform at least the following  
3 official acts in his capacity as an ABC District Administrator:

4           i. directing ABC enforcement operations and  
5 disciplinary actions against targeted businesses defendant SEO  
6 selected;

7           ii. altering official ABC documents at the direction  
8 of defendant SEO, including modifying diagrams and operating  
9 conditions;

10           iii. sharing non-public information with defendant SEO  
11 to benefit defendant SEO and his clients;

12           iv. expediting the licensing process for defendant  
13 SEO's clients at defendant SEO's direction; and

14           v. delaying the licensing process for defendant  
15 SEO's competitors at defendant SEO's direction.

16           d. Defendant SEO and defendant SALAO would conceal from  
17 the ABC and the State that defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO bribes  
18 and kickbacks in exchange for official acts from defendant SALAO.

19           e. Defendant SEO would convince business owners to pay  
20 defendant SEO a "consulting fee" to avoid harsh disciplinary actions  
21 imposed by defendant SALAO as an ABC District Administrator.

22 C. OVERT ACTS

23           21. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to accomplish the  
24 objects of the conspiracy, on or about the following dates, defendant  
25 SEO and defendant SALAO, and others known and unknown to the Grand  
26 Jury, committed various overt acts in Los Angeles County, within the  
27 Central District of California, and elsewhere, including, but not  
28 limited to, the following:



a. Bribe and Kickback Payments

Overt Act No. 1: On January 22, 2014, during an in-person meeting in Los Angeles County, defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO a \$1,900 cash bribe.

Overt Act No. 2: On April 24, 2014, during an in-person meeting in Los Angeles County, defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO a \$2,000 bribe by check, check number 1021, from the ABC LLC Account.

Overt Act No. 3: On February 6, 2015, during an in-person meeting in Los Angeles County, defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO a \$2,500 bribe by check, check number 1037, from the ABC LLC Account.

Overt Act No. 4: On March 4, 2015, during an in-person meeting in Los Angeles County, defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO a \$2,500 bribe by check, check number 1042, from the ABC LLC Account.

Overt Act No. 5: On April 30, 2015, during an in-person meeting in Los Angeles County, defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO a \$2,250 bribe by check, check number 1053, from the ABC LLC Account.

Overt Act No. 6: On June 16, 2015, during an in-person meeting in Los Angeles County, defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO a \$2,500 bribe by check, check number 1065, from the ABC LLC Account.

Overt Act No. 7: On August 17, 2015, during an in-person meeting in Los Angeles County, defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO a \$2,500 cash bribe.

Overt Act No. 8: On October 14, 2015, during an in-person meeting in Los Angeles County, defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO a \$5,250 bribe by check.

Overt Act No. 9: On January 28, 2016, during an in-person meeting in Los Angeles County, defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO a \$2,000 cash bribe.

b. \$60,000 Cash Payment to "Fix" ABC License Issue

Overt Act No. 10: On December 9, 2011, defendant SALAO caused the ABC to raid Business 1.

Overt Act No. 11: On December 12, 2011, defendant SALAO sent an e-mail from his ABC e-mail account informing Business 1 that the ABC will be surrendering Business 1's license, adding: "This process effectively places the license in an inactive status. The surrender is effective today. Sales, service or consumption of alcoholic beverages at a business where the license has been surrendered is a misdemeanor."

Overt Act No. 12: Between December 12, 2011 and December 14, 2011, defendant SEO met with Cooperating Witness 1 ("CW-1") and Cooperating Witness 2 ("CW-2") at Business 1. During this meeting, defendant SEO offered to resolve the ABC license issue for \$60,000. Defendant SEO told CW-1 and CW-2 that he would need to pay important people at ABC to get their assistance.

Overt Act No. 13: Between December 12, 2011 and December 14, 2011, defendant SEO accepted \$60,000 in cash from CW-2 as a payment to bribe public officials to resolve Business 1's ABC license issue.

Overt Act No. 14: On December 15, 2011, at defendant SEO's request, defendant SALAO signed and issued a temporary permit to Business 1, allowing Business 1 "to engage in the purchase and sale of alcoholic beverages" from December 15, 2011 to April 14, 2012.

Overt Act No. 15: In December 2011, defendant SEO paid defendant SALAO in cash or by check in return for defendant SALAO's assistance at the ABC.

c. Directing Enforcement Operations and Disciplinary Actions

Overt Act No. 16: On January 9, 2015, defendant SEO and defendant SALAO had a text message conversation regarding their scheme. During this conversation, defendant SEO wrote to defendant SALAO: "Remember AP accusation cases you have to find a way to go LOW or reduce penalty. They have to see value to retain me. Or else they have to pay POIC and our fees which will be difficult to justify." Defendant SALAO responded: "Oh of course. That's why we have operation knock & notice."

Overt Act No. 17: Later that same day, on January 9, 2015, defendant SALAO wrote: "So my plan for the b-girl places is this: I go in with a partner in uniform. We inspect the place. We FI a few girls, take photos, go over what conditions they are violating & leave. I get back to the office and send a 309 letter a week or two later. If they are represented by AP, I will conditions, asking for stiff penalty. We do the same song & dance and they get LOW due to your expertise as former abc. If they aren't represented by AP and another consultant or attorney calls me, I yell at them for violating their conditions and tell them to knock it off. Then we make a real case against them." Defendant SEO responded: "Good plan. I like it."

*i. Business 2*

Overt Act No. 18: On December 18, 2014, defendant SEO sent an e-mail to defendant SALAO with an attachment titled "Koreatown Karaoke List." The attachment listed various establishments to target in an upcoming ABC enforcement operation, including Business 2, listing potential violations at each establishment, such as "afterhours," "Dowoomi," "B-girls," and noting that seven of the

1 targets "will most likely NOT retain me so make sure you put some  
2 fear into them!! This will be a great start to Operation K-Town."

3 Overt Act No. 19: On February 5, 2015, defendant SEO and  
4 defendant SALAO had a text message conversation regarding a "package  
5 deal" for the owner of Business 2, including securing only a Letter  
6 of Warning for a violation at Business 2. After defendant SALAO  
7 confirmed this resolution was possible, defendant SALAO asked: "How  
8 much did you suck out of them?" Defendant SEO responded: "\$7.5  
9 [thousand]."

10 Overt Act No. 20: On April 7, 2015, defendant SALAO, in his  
11 official ABC capacity and on ABC letterhead, sent a Letter of Warning  
12 by U.S. Mail to Business 2.

13 *ii. Business 3*

14 Overt Act No. 21: On July 27, 2015, defendant SEO and defendant  
15 SALAO had a text message conversation regarding Business 3. During  
16 this conversation, defendant SALAO told defendant SEO: "Also appears  
17 that [Business 3] either paid off or tried to pay off recent rape  
18 victim at their joint." When defendant SEO asked what happened,  
19 defendant SALAO responded: "Bgirl got raped. She reported it to  
20 LAPD." Defendant SALAO asked if Business 3 was an APC client.  
21 Defendant SEO responded: "They're not APC. They haven't responded to  
22 my letter. I'm going to send one more."

23 Overt Act No. 22: On August 24, 2015, defendant SEO sent an  
24 envelope by U.S. Mail with marketing material in Korean to Business  
25 3.

26 Overt Act No. 23: On December 2, 2015, defendant SEO and  
27 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed that the  
28

1 "best APC" result for Business 3 for their pending ABC violations was  
2 a 60-day suspension.

3 Overt Act No. 24: On December 14, 2015, defendant SEO and  
4 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed Business  
5 3's pending ABC violations. During that conversation, defendant  
6 SALAO told defendant SEO: "Just [got] dvd of footage. Not good for  
7 ABC/LAPD but good for APC. No after hours footage." Defendant SALAO  
8 then told defendant SEO that the ABC would seek a 30-day suspension.

9 Overt Act No. 25: On February 8, 2016, defendant SALAO, in his  
10 official ABC capacity and using ABC letterhead, sent a letter by U.S.  
11 Mail to Business 3 requesting a 309 meeting.

12 Overt Act No. 26: On February 12, 2016, defendant SEO, in a  
13 text message conversation, told defendant SALAO that Business 3 was  
14 "ready to sign stip n waive" for a 30-day suspension.

15 ***iii. Business 4***

16 Overt Act No. 27: On October 22, 2015, defendant SEO sent an e-  
17 mail to defendant SALAO identifying target businesses to hit in an  
18 upcoming ABC raid, including Business 4.

19 Overt Act No. 28: On October 24, 2015, defendant SALAO caused  
20 the ABC to raid Business 4.

21 Overt Act No. 29: On November 3, 2015, defendant SALAO, in his  
22 official ABC capacity and using ABC letterhead, sent a letter by U.S.  
23 Mail to Business 4 requesting a 309 meeting.

24 Overt Act No. 30: On December 21, 2015, defendant SALAO, in a  
25 text message conversation, asked defendant SEO: "Wouldn't it be nice  
26 if we could strong arm [Business 4] into selling Biz to APC?"

27 Overt Act No. 31: On January 13, 2016, defendant SEO met with  
28 the owners of Business 4 in Los Angeles, California.

1        Overt Act No. 32: On January 21, 2016, defendant SEO and  
2 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed Business 4  
3 as a potential location for defendant SEO and defendant SALAO's  
4 Koreatown establishment. During that conversation, defendant SEO  
5 told defendant SALAO: "[Business 4] will be APC location #1. Just  
6 have to scare [Victim] to convince his mom go sell or lease it out."  
7 After defendant SALAO asked "What do you mean?", defendant SEO  
8 explained: "I have a team ready to sub-lease or do per to per if  
9 [Victim] is scared enough to get out." Defendant SEO later wrote:  
10 "We just need enough fear for [Victim] to convince his mom to get  
11 out. It's his reputation on the line."

12        Overt Act No. 33: On February 8, 2016, defendant SALAO, in his  
13 official ABC capacity and using ABC letterhead, sent a letter by U.S.  
14 Mail to Business 4 requesting a 309 meeting.

15        Overt Act No. 34: On March 3, 2016, defendant SEO and defendant  
16 SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed "hitting [Business  
17 4] to convince them to get out of Dodge."

18        Overt Act No. 35: On March 9, 2016, defendant SEO and defendant  
19 SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed their strategy of  
20 ABC raids at Business 4. During that conversation, defendant SEO  
21 wrote: "Only reason why I'm not down with hitting them now is because  
22 we may have to buy existing girls debts if we takeover. And if they  
23 get spooked then they will run. And others in Ktown won't want to  
24 come work at [Business 4] since they will think it's too risky to  
25 work there."

26        Overt Act No. 36: On March 25, 2016, at defendant SEO's  
27 request, defendant SALAO caused the ABC to raid Business 4.  
28

1        Overt Act No. 37: On May 18, 2016, defendant SEO, in a text  
2 message conversation, told defendant SALAO that he (defendant SEO)  
3 became a silent part-owner of Business 4.

4            d.    Altering Official ABC Documents

5        Overt Act No. 38: On March 14, 2014, defendant SEO and  
6 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed modifying  
7 a diagram in exchange for a \$1,000 payment from defendant SEO's  
8 client. During that conversation, defendant SEO told defendant  
9 SALAO: "need to modify diagram. Storage area built illegally and  
10 need to be part of diagram." After confirming that defendant SEO had  
11 not filed anything yet, defendant SALAO wrote: "Gimme a drawing and  
12 I'll add it to the existing 257."

13        Overt Act No. 39: On October 9, 2014, defendant SEO and  
14 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed using  
15 their condition modification scheme for one of defendant SEO's  
16 clients who wanted to remove three conditions from its operating  
17 conditions. During that discussion, defendant SALAO warned: "Can't  
18 do all 3. Talk to them and find out which one is most important to  
19 them. An old man forgetting to type one condition is not as  
20 suspicious as the 3 they wanted removed suddenly disappearing."

21        Overt Act No. 40: On December 17, 2015, defendant SEO and  
22 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed their  
23 condition modification scheme. During that conversation, defendant  
24 SALAO told defendant SEO: "That's way too many for the conditions.  
25 We originally discussed the bar issue only. I can't delete almost  
26 half of them. Pick one or two that he wants. Whole premise behind  
27 APC condition mod is that the LR fucked up and forgot one or two. To  
28 delete that many isn't a mistake." In response, defendant SEO



1 suggested deleting conditions related to the bar, security guard, and  
2 bottles. Defendant SALAO responded: "Yeah that's doable."

3 e. Sharing Non-Public Information

4 Overt Act No. 41: On March 7, 2015, defendant SALAO, in a text  
5 message conversation, warned defendant SEO of police enforcement  
6 action in Koreatown: "Remember Olympic [LAPD] is out tonight."

7 Overt Act No. 42: On April 12, 2016, defendant SALAO, in a text  
8 message conversation, warned defendant SEO about the identity of a  
9 potential informant working with law enforcement in Koreatown: "One  
10 of my goons [ABC enforcement officers] said he may be able to turn a  
11 bgirl he contacted into a confidential informant. I'm gonna get her  
12 photo and ID to you. Either way, I'm gonna get you her 411 so if she  
13 comes knocking for a job you know what to do."

14 Overt Act No. 43: On April 11, 2016, defendant SEO and  
15 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed  
16 confidential identifying information regarding undercover LAPD  
17 officers conducting enforcement operations in Koreatown. During that  
18 conversation, defendant SALAO told defendant SEO: "When we do next  
19 ktown thing with LAPD I will get you photos of Korean officers."  
20 Defendant SEO responded: "NICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Good thinking." Defendant  
21 SALAO then sent a photograph of an officer, writing: "Here's one of  
22 them." Defendant SEO responded: "Nice. I will make sure he's  
23 marked."

24 Overt Act No. 44: On December 11, 2013, defendant SEO, in a  
25 text message conversation, told one of his clients in Koreatown that  
26 the LAPD met with the ABC and made plans to raid a particular karaoke  
27 establishment in Koreatown.  
28

1        Overt Act No. 45: On February 6, 2014, defendant SEO, in a text  
2 message conversation, warned one of his clients in Koreatown that the  
3 LAPD planned a raid in Koreatown that evening.

4        Overt Act No. 46: On March 7, 2014, defendant SEO, in a text  
5 message conversation, warned one of his clients in Koreatown that the  
6 LAPD and ABC were "out in Ktown."

7        Overt Act No. 47: On February 25, 2015, defendant SEO, in a  
8 telephone conversation, warned one of his clients in Koreatown of an  
9 upcoming raid in Koreatown and advised the client to close the  
10 establishment on the night of the planned operation.

11            f.    Expediting or Delaying the Licensing Process

12        Overt Act No. 48: On August 20, 2015, defendant SEO and  
13 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed expediting  
14 a license for one of defendant SEO's clients. During that  
15 conversation, defendant SEO told defendant SALAO "please reinstate  
16 this license ASAP and let me know." Defendant SALAO responded three  
17 minutes later: "It's reinstated." After defendant SEO thanked him,  
18 defendant SALAO wrote: "APC customer service."

19        Overt Act No. 49: On March 27, 2014, defendant SEO and  
20 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed delaying  
21 the licensing process for certain targeted businesses. During that  
22 conversation, defendant SEO told defendant SALAO: "I will give you  
23 list of clients that just played me for free info and will file  
24 themselves or with cheap consultant. I need your help and make sure  
25 they hit many road bumps." Defendant SALAO responded: "Fuck em. I'll  
26 make it impossible for them without AP help."

27        Overt Act No. 50: On March 18, 2016, defendant SEO and  
28 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed delaying

1 the licensing process for defendant SEO's competitors. During that  
2 conversation, defendant SEO told defendant SALAO: "The way to kill  
3 off [two competitors] is on your end. Scrutinize the shit out of  
4 their cases and delay is the key. And 309 find a way not to grant [a  
5 fine]. Give maximum penalty and make note of their clients and APC  
6 enforcement for second pop and raise the penalty. Then I send APC  
7 letter to them. LOL. We may not able to stop people from going to  
8 them the first time but we can steal them for the second violation."  
9 Defendant SALAO responded: "Ever moving parts to ktown dominance."

10 g. Concealing Material Facts

11 Overt Act No. 51: On December 17, 2015, defendant SEO and  
12 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed concealing  
13 their scheme to alter official ABC documents. During that  
14 conversation, defendant SALAO stated: "I'm still so paranoid though.  
15 I was checking ceiling tiles in the base file room to make sure there  
16 weren't cameras." Defendant SEO responded: "Paranoia is GOOD. that  
17 means you're alert. Shit happens when you're complacent." Defendant  
18 SEO then wrote: "When you said you were paranoid about base file area  
19 I had a thought. It would [b]e funny to see base files shrink to half  
20 and you expand your garage for all APC files. Lol." Defendant SALAO  
21 responded: "That would be great. More APC files the better the  
22 college the boys go to!" Defendant SEO then wrote: "LOL. Private."

23 Overt Act No. 52: On January 15, 2016, defendant SEO and  
24 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed Business 4  
25 engaging in human trafficking. During that conversation, defendant  
26 SALAO warned: "Just make sure your name is nowhere to be found."  
27 Defendant SEO responded: "You got it." Defendant SALAO then wrote:  
28

1 "First thing Feds will do is freeze your assets and then there'll be  
2 checks made out to me."

3 h. Payments from Koreatown Businesses

4 Overt Act No. 53: On August 11, 2015, defendant SEO and  
5 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed their "ops  
6 plan." During that conversation, defendant SEO told defendant SALAO  
7 that he found a complete list of Koreatown businesses in his Gmail  
8 account, and added "I'm slow this month so I will dedicate entire  
9 month to APC and membership to these fools. [An unindicted co-  
10 conspirator] offered to act as sales agent. Her looks will get her  
11 through the door." Defendant SALAO responded: "Now slow down on [the  
12 unindicted co-conspirator] going door to door. We should pop them  
13 APC style first to lure them in. Then slam them with membership."  
14 Co-conspirator SALAO later wrote: "If they don't sign we at least  
15 extort them for money. Correction. Extort is such a harsh word.  
16 Help them with their lack of compliance sounds better." Defendant  
17 SEO responded: "I totally agree. When we meet Monday we need to  
18 seriously coordinate this APC."

19 Overt Act No. 54: On August 11, 2015, defendant SEO sent an e-  
20 mail to defendant SALAO, sending an attachment titled "APC ACTION  
21 PLAN," which described a "to do list," including defendant SEO  
22 setting up a website, creating and sending marketing letters, and  
23 creating an "ABC violation prone restaurant list," and defendant  
24 SALAO providing a "61, CUP, ABC violation list" and a "[n]ew ABC  
25 license application list" on a weekly basis.

26 i. Business 5

27 Overt Act No. 55: On October 6, 2014, defendant SEO and  
28 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed a recent

1 ABC violation at Business 5. During that conversation, defendant  
2 SALAO informed defendant SEO that Business 5 had "b-girl" violations  
3 from a recent ABC visit. Defendant SALAO told defendant SEO to  
4 advise the business "to cool it for the next couple of weeks," but  
5 defendant SEO responded: "No let's get them busted. Fuck it. Then  
6 we can do damage control."

7 Overt Act No. 56: On November 19, 2014, defendant SEO and  
8 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed their plan  
9 regarding Business 5. During that conversation, defendant SEO told  
10 defendant SALAO: "I thought about it and I have a plan... Here's what  
11 I plan. Tell me if feasible... Call us in for original 35 days to  
12 scare him. Then we come back in and then make it seem I reduced it  
13 to [a fine]. That will have better effect on AP." Defendant SALAO  
14 responded: "Yeah not a problem. We can do the first 309 anytime."

15 Overt Act No. 57: On December 19, 2014, defendant SEO and  
16 defendant SALAO, in a text message conversation, discussed the fee  
17 defendant SEO charged for his services. During that conversation,  
18 defendant SEO told defendant SALAO that he "[g]ot 3k last night" from  
19 the owner of Business 5. Defendant SALAO responded: "Damn! 3K  
20 [\$3,000] just like that? We are gonna rape Ktown!" Later that day,  
21 defendant SEO told defendant SALAO: "When we meet I will have some  
22 plans ready like korean news media and how we can use them to pump  
23 fear into Ktown." Defendant SALAO responded: "I'm open to whatever  
24 lines our wallets!"

25 *ii. Business 6*

26 Overt Act No. 58: On January 23, 2015, defendant SEO sent a  
27 text message to defendant SALAO with a list of businesses for ABC to  
28 raid in Koreatown, including Business 6.

1        Overt Act No. 59: On January 24, 2015, defendant SALAO caused  
2 the ABC to raid Business 6.

3        Overt Act No. 60: On February 27, 2015, defendant SEO  
4 accompanied the licensee of Business 6 to a 309 hearing at the ABC  
5 office.

6        Overt Act No. 61: On March 6, 2015, defendant SEO deposited a  
7 \$2,950 check from Business 6 into the ABC LLC Account.

8                    *iii. Business 7*

9        Overt Act No. 62: On July 30, 2015, defendant SEO sent an e-  
10 mail to defendant SALAO, with a list of businesses for ABC to raid,  
11 including Business 7, writing: "Anything is good. Ex client... Good  
12 scare will do. Maybe take photo of b girls."

13        Overt Act No. 63: On August 1, 2015, defendant SALAO caused the  
14 ABC to raid Business 7.

15        Overt Act No. 64: On August 5, 2015, defendant SALAO, in his  
16 official ABC capacity and using ABC letterhead, sent a letter by U.S.  
17 Mail to Business 7, requesting a 309 meeting.

18        Overt Act No. 65: On August 20, 2015, defendant SEO met with  
19 the owner of Business 7 to discuss the ABC violation.

20        Overt Act No. 66: On August 26, 2015, defendant SEO deposited a  
21 \$2,000 check from Business 7 into the ABC LLC Account.

22                    *iv. Business 8*

23        Overt Act No. 67: On August 13, 2015, defendant SEO, in a text  
24 message conversation, told defendant SALAO to direct an ABC raid  
25 against Business 8.

26        Overt Act No. 68: On August 14, 2015, defendant SALAO caused  
27 the ABC to raid Business 8.

1        Overt Act No. 69: On September 2, 2015, defendant SALAO, in his  
2 official ABC capacity and using ABC letterhead, sent a letter by U.S.  
3 Mail to Business 8, requesting a 309 meeting.

4        Overt Act No. 70: On September 16, 2015, defendant SEO  
5 accompanied the licensee of Business 8 to a 309 hearing at the ABC  
6 office.

7        Overt Act No. 71: On September 17, 2015, defendant SEO, in a  
8 text message conversation, confirmed to defendant SALAO that  
9 defendant SEO would charge Business 8 \$2,500 for the 309 hearing.



## COUNTS TWO THROUGH NINE

[18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1343, 1346; 18 U.S.C. §§ 2(a), (b)]

22. The Grand Jury hereby repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference paragraph 21 of Count One of this Indictment as if set forth fully herein.

A. THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

23. Beginning on an unknown date but no later than December 9, 2011, and continuing until on or about May 3, 2016, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant SEO and defendant SALAO, together with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, knowingly and with intent to defraud, devised, participated in, and executed a scheme to defraud the citizens of the State of California and defendant SALAO's employer, the ABC, of their right to the honest services of their public officials through bribery and kickbacks, materially false and fraudulent pretenses and representations, and the concealment of material information.

B. MEANS AND METHODS OF THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

24. The scheme to defraud operated, in substance, in the manner and by the means described in Paragraph 20 of Count One of this Indictment.

C. USE OF THE MAIL

25. On or about the dates set forth below, within the Central District of California and elsewhere, defendant SEO and defendant SALAO, each aiding and abetting the other, for the purpose of executing the above-described scheme to defraud, willfully caused the following items to be placed in an authorized depository for mail

matter to be sent and delivered by the United States Postal Service according to the directions thereon:

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MAILING</u>
TWO	04/07/2015	Letter from defendant SALAO in his official ABC capacity to Business 2, issuing a warning.
THREE	08/24/2015	Envelope from Alcoholic Beverage Control, LLC addressed to Business 3, containing marketing material.
FOUR	02/08/2016	Letter from defendant SALAO in his official ABC capacity to Business 3, requesting a 309 meeting.
FIVE	02/08/2016	Letter from defendant SALAO in his official ABC capacity to Business 4, requesting a 309 meeting.

D. USE OF WIRES

26. On or about the dates set forth below, within the Central District of California and elsewhere, defendant SEO and defendant SALAO, each aiding and abetting the other, for the purpose of executing the above-described scheme to defraud, transmitted and caused the transmission of the following items by means of wire communication in interstate commerce:

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>WIRE TRANSMISSION</u>
SIX	12/18/2014	E-mail from defendant SEO's Gmail account to defendant SALAO's Yahoo account, sending an attachment containing a target list titled "Koreatown Karaoke List," including Business 2.
SEVEN	07/30/2015	E-mail from defendant SEO's Gmail account to defendant SALAO's Yahoo account, sending an attachment containing a target list, including Business 7.
EIGHT	08/11/2015	E-mail from defendant SEO's Gmail account to defendant SALAO's Yahoo account, sending an attachment titled "APC ACTION PLAN."
NINE	10/22/2015	E-mail from defendant SEO's Gmail account to defendant SALAO's Yahoo account, sending an attachment containing a target list, including Business 5.

COUNTS TEN THROUGH THIRTEEN

[18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(2)]

27. The Grand Jury hereby repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference paragraphs 20 and 21 of Count One of this Indictment as if set forth fully herein.

28. On or about the following dates, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant SEO corruptly gave, offered, and agreed to give things of value to co-conspirator Salao, that is, the monetary payments set forth below, intending to influence and reward co-conspirator Salao in connection with business, transactions, and series of transactions of the ABC, having a value of \$5,000 or more, namely: (a) directing ABC enforcement operations and disciplinary actions against targeted businesses SEO selected; (b) altering official ABC documents for defendant SEO's clients, including modifying diagrams and conditions in 257 Forms; (c) sharing non-public information with defendant SEO to benefit defendant SEO and his clients; (d) expediting the licensing process for defendant SEO's clients; and (e) delaying the licensing process for defendant SEO's competitors.

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COUNT	DATE(S)	THING OF VALUE
TEN	Between 04/24/2014 and 03/04/2015	\$7,000 in three checks
ELEVEN	Between 04/30/2015 and 08/20/2015	\$7,250 in two checks and cash
TWELVE	10/14/2015	\$5,250 check
THIRTEEN	05/24/2016	\$5,000 cash

A TRUE BILL

/s/

Foreperson

NICOLA T. HANNA  
United States Attorney



LAWRENCE S. MIDDLETON  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Chief, Criminal Division

MACK E. JENKINS  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Chief, Public Corruption and  
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Section